



MEETING MINUTES / 20 FEBRUARY 2017

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Farley, Showell, Armbruster, Bradley, Johnson (telephone), Lardizzzone, Lopez, McMullen, Newman (telephone), Sarg, and Seppala **73%**

Absences: Baldwin, Magner, Newstadt, and Stewart

Guests: Ginny Yelland (Wilmington VAMC), Bill Peterson (Delaware Veterans Home), Jessica Finan, Pat Cerchio (First State Women Warriors), Kim McMullen, Dave Skocik (Veterans Coalition), Liz Byers-Jiron (Veterans Awareness Center), Antonio Bivins, Roger Bulley, Gwen Carter, T.J. Healy

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

Requested moment of silence for Florida school shooting victims and for service members on alert in the Republic of Korea

MEETING MINUTES:

Approved, motions: Armbruster and Lardizzzone

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

Wilmington VAMC – Ginny Yelland, Public Affairs (via telephone)

Interviewing Chief of Staff Candidates

Interviews for Chief Nurse Executive will take place soon

Follow-up to question about Dover CBOC network connectivity

- Limited bandwidth led to periodic difficulty accessing electronic medical records, not a common occurrence

Events:

Enrollment Event, 27 February / 1100 – 1500, VFW 7478 Greenwood

Quarterly Town Hall, 22 March / 1000 – 1400, University of Delaware Star Campus

- Representatives from leadership, human resources, outreach, and additional areas

- Target is student veteran population

(Johnson) What is the status of the Sussex CBOC septic and radiology issues?

Septic issue was resolved and additional radiology equipment is schedule to be installed

(McMullen) Spoke with a community provider who did not receive VA payment for treatment rendered

Was asked to contact Ginny to resolve

(Newman) Requested benefits building update

Plan is being finalized to relocate veteran service officers during renovations

Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Bill Peterson, Director:

80 residents

Anticipating resident increase, in April, following building upgrades

State director's conference was last week in Washington DC

Completed federal survey, went well, four minor administrative items noted

Potential residency requirement issue as Washington (state) Veterans Home want to transfer a resident to Delaware

- Resident does not meet residency requirement and will need to discuss with Secretary of State and admissions' board

National Cancer Moonshot initiative (improved treatment for veterans diagnosed with cancer) will be received by home

Gold Unit's projected opening is 6 April / 1000

VA construction office meeting, may be eligible for 65% funding, for dental suite

- Restrictions include only-VA patients, unable to treat non-VA enrolled veterans

- Something to consider

The Blue Unit was approved to receive a bathing suite

Two administrative members resigned to accept other employment

(Armbruster) Has the home had issue with the flu epidemic?

No issues with the flu

Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:

12 Males, 4 females, and 2 children

VA inspection found minor deficiencies (sprinklers and walls)

CPA audit begins tomorrow

- Costs \$700.00 per year

- Assesses expenditures

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

T.J. Healy, Veterans Story Project

Seeking oral histories from WW II veterans

Seeking 400 Vietnam War and 100 Korean Conflict oral histories for public archives

Goal is to have all state's histories by 2025

Histories are transcribed and stored at the Library of Congress

Outreach involves taking a custom bus to veteran locations (e.g. state fair, service organizations)

(Johnson) Please contact the Korean War Veterans of America for Korean veteran contacts

(Showell) Is there a bus visitation schedule?

Not yet but one will be posted in the next newsletter

Also soliciting women's histories to accompany women's monument unveiling

Roger Bulley, Retired Air Force

Concerned about the amount of mail received from veteran service organizations

Sought information on reducing these mailings

Believes mailings infer competition between service organizations when they are all working toward helping veterans

(Farley) Individuals should also be aware of false veteran organizations

(Farley) Organizations associated with the commission are local and most of the mailings are national

Brendan Mackie, Constituent Advocate, Senator Coons

Senator Coons sponsored the signed Stop Tax and Disability Act

Supports the National Guard Parody Act

- Protects guardsmen pay and other benefits

Senator Coons' team has resolved 8691 cases, over 2000 veteran related

Various service organizations are approaching legislators about Southwest Asia burn pits, Camp Lejeune drinking water, and Agent Orange

Liz Byers-Jiron, Veterans Awareness Center

Women's Tea is 24 March at DelVets Post 2, seeking volunteers and donations

Give a Vet a Smile Program has 238 enrollees and 27 volunteer dentists

Operation Stand Down is 21 September / 0930 at Schutte Park (Dover)

Pat Cerchio, First State Military Women Warriors

Presented a flyer highlighting the First State Military Women Warriors luncheon

- 10 March / 1200, DCVA headquarters

The women's monument committee is collecting photos for the memorial, 26 March is the last date to collect

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Armbruster:

Interments – 87

Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:

Interments - 33

Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:

Lt Governor Hall-Long hosted behavioral health town halls throughout the State of Delaware

- Brought awareness to substance abuse and other behavioral health concerns

Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:

Legislative agenda for 2018 has been completed and thanks to Commissioner Sarg for his work completing the document

- The agenda will be presented to the Military Affairs committee on 14 March

(Sarg) Discussed the wording changes for the nine proposals

A vote was taken to accept the ninth proposal as an addition to the original document

- Lardizzone made a motion, Armbruster seconded, motion passed

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

Commissioner McMullen (AFSA)

14 February 2018 attended monthly chapter meeting, briefed on DCVA activities and last legislative initiatives at state and national levels

Chapter continues to provide members for visits and help during events at the Delaware Veterans Home and initiated helping at a local soup kitchen

Chapter Trustee Alejandra Lowe won base Airmen of the Year and has been submitted to represent the chapter at the AFSA Division 1 Convention.

March 8 – 10, 2018 AFSA Division 1 Convention at the Radisson Hotel North Baltimore, MD.

25 – 29 August 2018 AFSA International Professional Airmen's Conference will in San Antonio, TX.

Will continue to send legislative updates

Latest change is co pays on TRICARE prescriptions to include TRICARE for Life

Commissioner Armbruster (AL)

Oratorical contest featured two speakers, one from Oaks School and one from Archmere Academy

- \$1K and \$500.00 scholarships were received, winner goes to nationals in Indianapolis IN

National Commander's visit is 14 – 16 March

Applications are being reviewed for Boys State attendance

Commissioner Bradley (AMVETS)

State meeting is 10 March / 1000 at Post 2

Auxiliary will host Murder Mystery Play fundraiser 23 February

Commissioner Lardizzone (DAV)

22 January attended WW II Pilot, 2nd Lt. Stanley Stegnerski's funeral at Millsboro
- Remains were found and returned from Germany after 73 years
23 January attended Friends of the Veterans Home meeting
24 January attended DCVA table display at legislative hall.
2 and 6 February sat on interview board for New Castle County Service Officer position
13 February attended DNG Prayer Breakfast

Commissioner Johnson (KWVA)

St Vincent DePaul Society asked for assistance, resulted in veteran's trailer being paid off
Organization oversees Wounded Warrior Fund to assist veterans
Donated bible to Commissioner Coons' widow
Dover AFB Ruck March honoring Korean War veterans is 110 March
Applebee's fundraiser will occur in April
JROTC scholarships are approaching

Commissioner Farley (MCL)

Toys for Tots collected 8320 toys for Kent County children

Commissioner Sarg (MOAA)

Representative Blunt-Rochester cancelled 20 January speaking engagement, due to budget voting, but provided a staffer to brief during the meeting
JROTC scholarship event is scheduled for the Greene Turtle on 22 February
- Projected collection of \$8K for Kent County cadets
- Multiple prizes will be awarded
Attended First State Community Partnership meeting on 7 February, interfacing with Dover AFB partners

Commissioner Magner (MOPH)

Not present

Commissioner Newman (VFW)

Provided VFW financial fact sheet to commissioners
Working with community youth on 24 February
Capitol Hill visit scheduled for 3 – 8 March
Council meeting 12 March at Legislative Hall
Grand of Del-A-Where Red and White Gala scheduled for 25 March hosted by Military Order of the Cootie

Commissioner Baldwin (VVA)

Not present

Commissioner Showell (At Large)

Tackle It Tuesdays has Wilmington VAMC personnel come to National Guard center to meet with guard personnel
Planning to meet with Staffer Brian Fahey and various commissioners to format Veterans Education Task Force

Commissioner Newstadt (At Large)

Not present

Commissioner Seppala (At Large)

Attended 13 February DNG Prayer Breakfast

Hosted VIP reception on 15 February for Delaware Military Heritage Museum opening

- Grand opening was 17 February

- - Sections include Revolutionary War, World War II, Korean War, and Gulf Wars

- - Museum feature a library interaction and children's section

Commissioner Lopez (At Large)

25 January attended Delaware Stand Down kickoff meeting

25 January and 8 February attended Female Veterans Tea meetings

2 and 8 February attended initial VA Welcome Home Committee meeting

2 February attended Wounded Warrior Program's PTSD group session

- Discussed Advocate Lopez's departure from the program and future support with coordinator Coleman Brooks

6 February met with DelVets Post 1 Commander Harvey Freville to continue communications, team building, and fundraiser events

15 February attended Women's Monument meeting

Commissioner Stewart (At Large)

Not present

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

DVTF: Requests 8, Granted 7 (87.5%), Awarded \$8,223.23 and Balance \$51,609.96

TERM EXPIRATION:

None

EVENTS:

Listed on agenda

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Submit Legislative Recommendations (CLOSED)

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:

(Sarg) Mentioned increases to pharmacy co-pays for retiree Tricare members are used to cover military readiness

- MOAA objects to this usage and will engage U.S. delegates

SPECIAL SESSION:

None

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 20 March 2018 at 10:00 AM

LOCATION:

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs Conference Room